

WASHINGTON, D.C. , Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced today that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved funding for the renovation of the North Quabbin Woods of Orange building.

North Quabbin Woods of Orange will oversee the project. A portion of the funding will also be used to support other projects in the region.

These projects aim to help revitalize the local economy based on the sustainable use of local forest resources.

"This initiative is both an economic generator as well as an eco-tourism effort that will benefit the entire region," Olver said.

Olver is a member of the Interior Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee and worked to secure the funding for this project.

North Quabbin Woods is working with the Town of Orange and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to develop the project.

The renovation is a demonstration project. The building will be an interpretive welcome center promoting the region's natural resources.

The North Quabbin region features natural resources and a rich cultural history. Unfortunately, in the past, the building has been neglected.

Therefore, marketing of the building and the wood products will be a key strategy of this initiative.

Olver added, "By creating an attractive hub near the Miller's River, this project will help draw and retain visitors to the region."

North Quabbin Woods aims to help revitalize the local economy by educating landowners about sustainable forest management practices.

Last year, \$94,000 in federal funding was secured for this project. The FY05 earmark represents the first of several years of funding for this project.

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